

scholars of careers of excellence and leadership in science and technology.

The Center's Research Science Institute, held on the campuses of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the California Institute of Technology, are nationally recognized for promoting this nation's competitive future in math, science, engineering and technology and for encouraging international understanding among future leaders. To date, over 1,500 U.S. students, including students from the U.S. Department of Defense Overseas Schools and student representatives from 46 nations have benefited from the Center's programs. They remain the only U.S. programs sponsored at no cost to students, who are competitively chosen to attend. The Center boasts of more winners and honorees of the Intel Talent Search competition than any other U.S. organization.

The USA Biology Olympiad has been sponsored in this Nation by the Center for 2 years. Over 5,000 students competed in the Center's USABO this past summer, from which four outstanding high school students represented the U.S. in the International Biology Olympiad in Australia. For the first time in the 15-year history of the IBO, a four-member team was awarded four gold medals.

We are proud that the Center for Excellence in Education has encouraged talented U.S. high school students to succeed in one of the premier world scientific competitions, and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each one of the Gold Medalists:

Kay Aull, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, VA
ZeNan Chang, Santa Monica High School, Santa Monica, CA

Clinton Hansen, Oneida High School, Oneida, NY

Brad Hargreaves, Caddo Parish Magnet High School, Shreveport, LA

We also congratulate the two coaches of the USABO:

Dr. Alan Christensen of George Mason University, and

Dr. William Stuart of the University of Maryland.

We appreciate this opportunity to recognize the Center for Excellence in Education for its 22 years as an outstanding nonprofit educational organization. The late Admiral H.G. Rickover, father of the nuclear powered submarine, can be proud of the organization which he established in 1983.

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize National American Indian Heritage Month, an important celebration that acknowledges the tremendous contributions of native peoples to our Nation.

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." The origins of this celebration, however, can be

traced back to 1915, when the Annual Congress of the American Indian Association directed its president to call upon the Nation to observe a day honoring Native Americans. In 1916, New York became the first State to declare an official American Indian Day.

Over the years, our Nation has moved toward a greater appreciation of the role of native peoples in American cultural, social, political, and economic life. This is reflected not only in the celebrations around the country associated with National American Indian Heritage Month, but also by the opening of the Museum of the American Indian as part of the Smithsonian Institution earlier this year.

As we celebrate the rich heritage and continuing contributions of native peoples this month, it is also important to acknowledge the challenges that many native communities face today. As a member of the Indian Affairs Committee, I am all too familiar with these challenges, and I believe we must empower native communities so every member can reach his or her full potential. That means respecting the sovereignty of tribes, strengthening education, improving health care, and enhancing economic opportunities for native peoples.

I look forward to working on these issues in the 109th Congress, and I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating National American Indian Heritage Month.

JUAN GABRIEL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Juan Gabriel as one of Mexico's leading vocalists and songwriters. He is well known internationally for his musical talent and as a leader of philanthropic causes.

Born Alberto Aguilera Valadez, Juan Gabriel is a six-time Grammy nominee, twice inducted into the Billboard Latin Music Hall of Fame. He has entertained sold-out audiences throughout the world, and last Sunday—November 14, 2004—he played to an energetic and enthusiastic crowd at Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas.

Juan has sold more than 30 million copies of his own albums. He is also a successful producer who has worked with artists such as Rocio Durcal, Lucha Villa, Lola Beltran, and Paul Anka.

Mr. Gabriel has reflected that "My hope for a better world and my love for music are my inspiration." And he has lived by those words, using his fame and success to establish SEMJASE, an organization that provides living assistance and schooling for orphaned and underserved children in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Juan Gabriel for sharing his tremendous musical talents with the citizens of Las Vegas this past week, and for his passion and commitment to help the less fortunate through charitable programs such as SEMJASE.

HONORING OUR ARMED SERVICES

SPECIALIST ALAN J. BURGESS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, the United States of America was founded on a passion for freedom, personal liberties, and equality for all its citizens. In a fierce battle for freedom and independence, the citizens of this new world cast off the shackles of tyranny and built for themselves a land of hope and promise. So fervently held were the beliefs and ideals of this country, that a son of New Hampshire, GEN John Stark, reminded us of the price of our liberties with his admonishment to "Live free or die." The heroes and Founding Fathers of that long ago time have been joined by another noble son of New Hampshire, SP Alan J. Burgess of Landaff. It is in his memory that I rise today to honor Alan for his service and supreme sacrifice in the continuing defense of this country and for his relentless defense of freedom.

Specialist Burgess demonstrated a willingness and dedication to serve and defend his country by joining the National Guard after this country was attacked in September 2001, and we had begun the task of destroying the enemies of our country. Just as many of America's heroes have taken up arms in the face of dire threats, Alan too dedicated himself to the defense of our ideals, values, freedoms, and way of life. His valor and service cost him his life but earned him a place on the roll-call of honor within the pantheon of heroes this country has produced.

Following basic training, Alan joined his comrades in 2nd Battalion, 197th Field Artillery Brigade, Army National Guard as a Military Policeman and began training for his deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. From this unit's home base in Woodsville, NH, he would deploy in March 2004 to Iraq in pursuit of those who would threaten our way of life.

During his all too brief career, Alan accumulated a significant list of accolades and experiences which testify to the dedication and devotion he held for the Army, his fellow soldiers, and his country. Alan's expertise contributed greatly to his unit's successes and cemented his place as a participant in the great endeavor known as America. Alan was recognized for his service by the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Army Reserve Overseas Service Ribbon.

I offer Alan's family my deepest sympathies and most heartfelt thanks for the service, sacrifice, and example of their soldier, SP Alan Burgess. Alan exemplified the words of Daniel Webster who said, "God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it." Because of his efforts, the liberty of this country is made more secure.